

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 38, 47, 52, and 54-58 and has amended claims 34 and 43 as set forth above. Applicant notes with appreciation the Office's indication that claims 1-3, 8-16, 19, 21-27, and 29-33 are allowed and claims 38 and 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has objected to claim 43 "two" in line 7 is misspelled "tow". Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 43 to correct this typographical error. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

The Office has rejected claims 34, 39, 41, 43, 48, 50, 52, 58 under 37 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 97/31506 to Kirjavainen (Kirjavainen), claims 34, 39, 41-43, 48, 50-52, 56 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 02-219478 to Iwamatsu (Iwamatsu)(see translation) in view of US Patent No. 4,288,735 Crites (Crites), claims 36, 45, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamatsu in view of Crites, claims 37, 46, and 56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamatsu in view of Crites and further in view of US Patent No. 3,405,334 to Jewett et al. (Jewett), claims 40, 49, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamatsu in view of Crites and in further view of US Patent No. 3,786,495 to Spence (Spence), and claim 55 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamatsu in view of Crites and in further view of US Patent No. 4,126,822 to Wahlstrom (Wahlstrom). Additionally, the Office has objected to asserted claim 38 and 47 to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 34 to incorporate the allowed subject matter of allowable dependent claim 38 and has amended claim 43 to incorporate the allowed subject matter of allowable dependent claim 47. Additionally, Applicant has canceled claims 38, 47, 52, and 54-58. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and objections.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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